If you’re applying for a new job that requires you to undergo an analytics interview, you know that getting ready can be scary. It often feels like there’s a lot on the line—plus, there’s very little information available about what to expect.

But don’t worry! In reality, analytics interviews aren’t that bad. And, with proper preparation, you can walk into your interview feeling confident — and walk out with a new job offer.

To get you started and eliminate some of the confusion surrounding analytics interviews, here’s a list of the top five things to do to prepare:

**1. RESEARCH THE COMPANY**

Before walking into your interview, it helps to have a solid understanding of the company to which you’re applying. Analytics interview questions often center around real problems that the company is trying to solve, so doing thorough research in advance can give you a huge advantage on interview day. For example, most operational roles at Uber require applicants to take an Uber-specific analytics test, which emulates real challenges that Uber analytics face on the job.

**2. TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS**

An analytical interview focuses on just that — analytics. Oftentimes, this means using quick, back-of-the-envelope calculations to solve hypothetical business problems faced by the company to which you’re applying. For example, your interviewer might ask you to estimate the total market size for products the company sells. Or, she might give you some high-level numbers on revenue and costs per product sold, and ask you to estimate the company’s yearly profits.

**3. PRACTICE HARD SKILLS**

Of course, analytical interviews aren’t just about mental math. You may be asked to show off your mastery of hard skills — either during your interview, or in a take-home screening test that you’re asked to complete on your own time. To get started, be sure to ask your recruiter in advance whether any hard skills will be tested during your interview. It helps to have complete clarity on what you’ll be tested on during the interview, so don’t be afraid to ask up front!

If your recruiter indicates that you’ll be tested on Excel skills, be sure to brush up on all the most common Excel interview questions that might come your way. This means practicing the basics of using Excel, including sorting and filtering; common formulas and functions like VLOOKUP and INDEX MATCH; and using Charts and PivotTables. You may also want to think of some examples of ways in which you’ve used Excel in the past to deliver actionable business insights. If your recruiter indicates that you’ll be tested on SQL, make sure that you’re familiar with basic query construction using SELECT statements, WHERE and ORDER BY clauses, and JOINs. You may also want to read up on a list of common SQL interview questions to prep for what might come your way.
4. PRACTICE HARD SKILLS

Analytics interviews aren’t just a one-way street. Your interviewer will almost undoubtedly ask if you have any questions for him or her at the end of the interview — and you should have a solid number prepared just in case. Having several questions ready that you’re genuinely curious about will help demonstrate to your interviewer that you’re prepared, engaged, and sincerely interested in the company.

Here are a couple of suggestions to get you started:

- What are the company’s biggest challenges, and how can I help solve them?
- What is the most important thing I could accomplish in my first 30 days on the job?
- How would you describe your company’s culture?
- What are your biggest concerns about extending me an offer for this role?

And here’s a great list of additional interview questions to get you thinking even more.

5. TAKE A PRACTICE INTERVIEW

Practice makes perfect: the age-old mantra is true. If you’re nervous about your analytics interview, there’s no better solution than to practice, practice, and practice some more.

To get started, have a friend give you a mock interview with sample analytical questions that he or she has made up in advance. This will help you get a sense for what your interview will be like — in a realistic setting.

And, check to see whether there are resources available online for the specific company to which you’re applying. For example, if you happen to be applying to Uber, there are a ton of resources available to help you prepare for the analytics exam.

Otherwise, be sure to practice those analytical skills — and don’t worry! With sufficient preparation, you’ll be able to walk into your interview confidently and blow your recruiter away.

For more information, explore the LEVEL Blog for more content related to accelerating your career in analytics.